

Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel
7028/7036 9th Avenue NW, Seattle

Historic and Cultural Resources Report

April 2008

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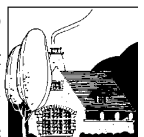


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SEVENTH ELECT CHURCH IN SPIRITUAL ISRAEL

Appendix A

1. INTRODUCTION

This Appendix A report provides information regarding the architectural design and historical significance of the Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel church building and residence. The buildings are located at 7028 9th Avenue NW and 7036 9th Avenue NW, respectively, in Seattle, Washington. The Johnson Partnership prepared this report at the request of the City of Seattle, Department of Parks and Recreation (DOPAR), Planning and Development Division.

1.1 Background

As any proposed demolition of the subject buildings described within this report will require a permit from DPD, DOPAR is providing the following report to the staff of the Seattle Landmarks and Preservation Board (L&PB) to resolve the property's status.

1.2 Methodology

Steve Sand, AIA, of The Johnson Partnership prepared this report in March 2008, under the direction of Larry E. Johnson, AIA. Research included review of documentation in the Seattle Municipal Archives. Other research was undertaken at the Seattle Public Library. The building and site were inspected and photographed to document the building's existing conditions on March 27, 2008.

2. PROPERTY DATA

Building Name: Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel

Address: 7028 9th Avenue NW

Location: Seattle, WA

Parcel Number: 0461005265

Legal Description: Lots 30 through 45, inclusive, except the south 10 feet of said lot 30, block 19, Ballard Park Addition to the City of Seattle, according to the plat thereof recorded in Volume 4 of Plats, page 80, in King County, Washington.

Date of Construction: 1917-1922

Original/Present Use: Church Commune/Residence

Original/Present Owner: Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel/Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel (sale pending to City of Seattle)

Original Designer: Unknown

Original Contractor: Unknown

Property Size: 38,500 square feet (0.883 acres)

Building Size: 3,815 square feet

3. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

3.1 Location

The Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel compound is located in the eastern portion of the Ballard Park Addition of the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle, Washington, at 7028 9th Avenue NW. An associated residence is located at 7036 9th Avenue NW. *See Figure 1 - 3.*

3.2 Neighborhood Character

The Ballard neighborhood is defined roughly as the area north of the ship canal, south of NW 105th Street and west of 8th Avenue NW. It was founded in 1889 and incorporated in 1907. The commercial core is centered around 15th Avenue NW and NW Market Street. Ballard also has one of the largest industrial zones within the City of Seattle. East Ballard is an unofficial sub-section of Ballard, whose boundaries are considered north of Leary Way, south of NW 72nd Street, east of 15th Avenue NW, and west of 3rd Avenue NW. The immediate area surrounding the site is comprised of single-family homes.

See Figures 4 and 5.

3.3 Site

The site measures 100 feet east to west by 365 feet north to south. The property is bounded by 9th Avenue NW on the west and residential properties on the north, east, and south. The ground level slopes to the south approximately 10 feet from the northern property line. The site contains extensive mature landscaping and raised vegetable plots. Hedges ranging in size from six feet to nearly twelve feet high obscure the interior of the property from all sides. Concrete letters six feet tall lying on a berm south of the buildings spell out the name Salwt in capital letters. Several varieties of fruit trees and berry bushes are well established and planted in an orderly manner. On the northern half of the lot is a foundation intended to support a temple that has not been built upon. Its walls and window openings frame views into a formal planting area surrounded by the poured concrete. The western wall of the foundation serves as a wall for a garden shed/greenhouse. *See Figures 6 and 7.*

3.4 Building Structures & Exterior Features

3.4.1 Church and Commune Residences

The southern building is a wood-framed, four-story structure clad with asbestos siding, with an attic and full basement. The building measures approximately 75 feet by 25 feet. The western elevation has a concrete stairway north of the centerline of the building leading to a porch on the main floor. A pair of painted, herringbone-patterned, wooden doors are placed in a wooden, shingled exterior wall and open onto the sidewalk on the south side of the elevation, leading to the basement. The main floor of the building contains two bay windows flanking a single-lighted, painted wooden door at the head of the stairs. Four slender columns support a porch roof and upper floor deck. The second floor western façade contains three doors in the middle of the building opening onto a covered porch supported by the main floor's porch roof. A wooden-framed, one-over-one double-hung window flanks the three doors on each side of the façade. A wooden-framed one-over-one double-hung attic window is centered between two brackets in the overhanging peaked gable.

The southern façade of the building is partially obstructed by a large conifer on the eastern end of the building. Four-paned windows allow natural light into the basement. The main floor of this elevation has a bay containing three, one-over-one double-hung windows. Three more double-hung windows are evenly spread over the middle portion of the façade and are hidden by foliage. Two vinyl double-hung windows are placed in the western portion of the main floor's southern façade are

also hidden from view. The upper floor contains original wood, double-hung windows placed in no relation to the windows at other levels of the building. The head of the windows on this façade is at the same height as the intersection of the roof and the exterior walls. Small, flat dormers allow the placement of a short horizontal light above the roof and the windows on the second floor. A large flat attic dormer contains three double-hung windows in the same plane as the windows below.

The eastern elevation of the building contains a pair of shed additions, one of which contains a door to the main level and the other a covered stair to the basement. A double hung window is centered in the gable of the second floor.

The northern façade is obscured by a row of manicured holly bushes and contains a similar window pattern to the southern elevation. This façade lacks the bay window on the main floor and the large attic dormer of the southern façade. The windows on all three levels do not relate to windows on the other floors. *See Figures 8 – 14.*

3.4.2 Garage

A 24-foot by 26-foot single-level, vinyl-sided garage is placed approximately eight feet north of the church building. The garage has an overhead door centered on the west side of the building and a 30-inch wide door in the eastern half of the south façade. A large window is placed east of the door in the south façade and a similar window is centered in the east façade. The north elevation is blank. *See Figure 15.*

3.4.3 Residence

The 18-foot by 24-foot L-shaped, two-story residence was built in 1918. The building lies approximately 8 feet north of the garage, and is the same distance from the eastern property line as the church building. The long portion of the “L” runs along the south side of the building and the short leg is on the east side. The building is sheathed in vinyl siding, and is covered by simple gables on the second level and a hipped porch roof.

The western façade contains a central stair leading to a porch. A wooden entrance door is placed asymmetrically in the western wall and next to a vinyl-clad, double-hung window. The recessed façade contains a single door under the northern porch roof. The western gable on the second floor has two double-hung windows roughly centered in the façade.

The southern façade contains a slider window at the basement level. A large fixed window is on the west edge of the main floor, and a smaller, double-hung window is further east on the second floor.

The eastern façade contains a casement window on the basement level. A small double-hung window is located near the southern edge of the building, and a pair of larger double-hung windows is roughly centered in the first floor level of the building. The second level of the building has three unequally spaced double-hung windows.

The northernmost northern façade contains two windows, a small double-hung and a larger slider, both on the main level. The recessed façade contains a pair of double-hung windows under the porch roof and centered in the wall. A small, single double-hung window has been placed above the northern porch roof in this façade. *See Figures 16 – 19.*

3.4.4 Woodshed

An 8-foot by 34-foot wood-framed and wood-shingled, single-story woodshed is located east of the church building. A simple shed roof slopes to the east. *See Figure 20.*

3.4.5 Greenhouse/Garden Shed

An approximately 8-foot by 20-foot wood-framed shed and greenhouse is attached to an unfinished foundation project. *See Figure 21.*

3.5 Plan & Interior Features

3.5.1 *Church and Commune Residences*

The interior of the building contains several small bedrooms on the main floor, a large gathering room, a smaller dining room and a kitchen. Two stairs at either end of the building provide circulation to the floor above. The second floor is composed entirely of small bedrooms off a central hallway. The attic space was not accessible. The basement contains a large open area with columns dividing the space into north and south halves. This space was held church services and other group functions. A raised platform on the east end of the building has a railing and a table built around a column. A table/lectern has been built around the easternmost column, near the edge of the raised platform. Male and female powder rooms are located in the northwest corner of the basement. The main floor has a pair of bathrooms on the north side of the building, and the upper floor also has a pair of bathrooms. *See Figures 22 – 29.*

3.5.2 *Garage*

The interior of the garage is a typical garage building constructed in the mid 1980's.

3.5.3 *Residence*

The interior of the residence was completely remodeled in 1992. The building contains a living room, kitchen, bathroom, and utility room on the first floor. Stairways to the basement and upper floor are stacked on the southern wall of the building. The upper floor of the building contains two bedrooms and a larger bathroom. The basement is unfinished concrete, poured in 1992. *See Figures 30 - 33.*

3.5.4 *Woodshed*

The woodshed interior was inaccessible at the time the site was visited.

3.5.5 *Greenhouse/Garden Shed*

The garden shed interior was inaccessible at the time the site was visited.

3.6 Documented Building Alterations

Summary of Permit History

Date	Designer	Description	Permit #
1974	unknown	Electrical upgrade	68480
1986	Ron Reed, ReeDesign	Construct detached garage	627174
1992	Unknown	Furnace upgrade	E96429
1992	Ron Reed, ReeDesign	Replace foundation, replace existing windows, interior alterations of 1 st and 2 nd floors.	661369

The church building's original wooden, lapped siding has been removed and replaced with asbestos siding. The railings on the upper and lower porch on the east end have been replaced as well. Recently a handicap accessibility ramp was added to the northwest corner of the building.

The original garage building was demolished and replaced with a new structure in 1986. Ron Reed, of ReeDesign is the architect of record.

The residence has had significant changes to the exterior and interior of the building. Outside, the most obvious change occurred as a result of replacing the foundation and raising the building. Windows have also been replaced and openings moved or resized. The chimney was removed when the original furnace was replaced. The raked eaves have been hidden from view by rain gutters. The porch roofs have been changed from two simple shed roofs to a connected hip roof wrapping the corner. The interior was totally remodeled and updated in 1992 and Ron Reed was again the architect of record.

4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Historic Neighborhood Context

Prior to European settlement, the Ballard area was occupied in the winter months by the Shilshole tribe. In 1853, Ira Utter became the first European settler, homesteading 820 acres.¹ Maritime and lumber-related industries were important to the growing community. The area around the subject site was developed into plots by the city of Ballard (incorporated in 1890). A population of 15,000 and a water shortage caused the voters to accept annexation into Seattle in 1907.²

Sanborn maps show no buildings on the property in 1917, and a residence and church building in 1950.³ Title information reveals the property was held in trust by Daniel Salwt at the time of his death, and after some legal challenges by his sons passed to the church. Today, the blocks surrounding the property contain single-family residences with a small amount of light commercial building on the nearby arterials, 15th Avenue NW, NW 65th Street, NW 80th Street, and 8th Avenue NW. *See Figures 33 – 34.*

4.2 Historical Architectural Context

Both of the larger structures exhibit brackets and a loose similarity to craftsman or bungalow homes. However, even when the buildings were originally constructed or located on the site, the buildings were not exceptional examples of this type of building and should be classified as vernacular designs, like the outbuildings. *See Figures 35 – 38.*

Anecdotal information suggests the church building was originally a single-room occupancy (SRO) hotel brought to the site from a previous location. The Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel possessed other boarding houses and this building could have been a similar investment or business of one of the early members. The high number of single males working in the fishing and timber industries in Ballard would have supported several buildings of this type.⁴ SRO hotels were a common building type in the Seattle area during the early twentieth century.⁵

4.3 Building Owner

Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel

Daniel Salwt, formerly Daniel Sult, founded the Seventh Elect Church in Israel in Seattle between 1909 and 1917. Salwt abandoned a wife and three children in the Midwest, traveling in the western states by bicycle until he had a vision to begin preaching on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Pike Street in Seattle, Washington. This new “church” grew to around 400 members by 1917. By 1923, Salwt was living at 818 West NW 70th, at the northern end of the Ballard District, near Phinney Ridge. Salwt proclaimed himself the “Seventh Messenger,”⁶ and reputedly preached that Phinney Ridge “would be the greatest ridge in the world, as it was the gathering place for the Elect of God, where the Holy City New Jerusalem will show the world the way to Heaven, alive.”

Salwt was reported to have raised a person from the dead who then joined the church afterward. Salwt died June 11, 1929, and was taken to a Ballard mortuary after a three-day standoff between

¹ City of Ballard, “About Ballard,” <http://ballardchamber.com>, accessed March 28, 2008.

² Ballard Historical Society, “Ballard History; A Concise History of the City of Ballard,” <http://ballardhistory.org>, accessed March 28, 2008.

³ Sanborn Map Co., Insurance Map of Seattle, Washington (1917 and 1950).

⁴ Calvin F. Schmid, *Social Trends in Seattle* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1944), pp. 107-109.

⁵ Karl Jeffrey Ochsner, ed., *Shaping Seattle Architecture: A Historical Guide to the Architects* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1994), p. 283.

⁶ “Today’s prophets are but pale imitators,” *Seattle Times*, May 6, 1970, p. A9.

local authorities and the church members who believed he would resurrect himself. His sons, Claiton and Arnell Sult, eventually received the body and had it buried at Daniel Salwt's birthplace in Logansport, Illinois.⁷ Members believed Salwt to be a reincarnation of Jesus Christ, calling him "Our Risen Lord."⁸ Some members believed they have seen a resurrected Salwt on many occasions, shaken hands and had conversations with Salwt. Arne Skogseth and Ambrose Schwader, original members, believed a resurrected Salwt told them, "They never put me under."⁹ Skogseth believed Salwt to be God, one of the long lines of reincarnations of Jesus Christ, which included Alexander the Great, Charlemagne, Martin Luther, and George Washington.¹⁰ He also explained how he witnessed Salwt finish a painting an artist was working on with a single brush stroke, stating "you're taking too long."¹¹

Salwt's group espoused celibacy and a vegetarian diet, and maintained that an instant death would result to those who cut their hair.¹² New members turned over their financial resources to the church and in return were given basic room, board, and the ability to preach. Members were required to tend the church's garden and attend frequent sermons given by Salwt. Other membership duties included ensuring the solvency of the church by installing sprinkler systems for profit at golf courses and residences, but never graveyards. Salwt did not believe in graveyards.

Sunday church services are reported to have ended with the singing of a hymn including the words "Praise Salwt from whom all blessings flow."¹³ One of Salwt's messages was to preach at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Pike Street, where the Salvation Army had priority. The attempts at preaching there often resulted in arrests for the members of the Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel.

Salwt was the only member of the community allowed to have "milk, butter, coffee, and tea" and allowed himself to break the church's vows of celibacy, as the only "overcomer."^{14 15}

The group continued to acquire residential property, eventually owning nearly half of a block along 9th Avenue NW north of NW 70th Street, consisting of two houses with large gardens to the north and south. The church anticipated the end of the world and hoped to use the money obtained from the court settlements to house the gathering of the 144,000, which they believed would be taken bodily into heaven.¹⁶ The group also held property in Michigan, oil fields in Montana, a ranch near Tacoma, city lots in Los Angeles, several Green Lake homes, several Vancouver, BC, rooming houses, and two five-figure bank accounts in the mid-1930s.¹⁷

The vegetarian church members originally grew their own produce on the property or ate vegetables discarded by the Pike Place Public Market, and day old bread.¹⁸ They kept a year's supply of food available, eventually relying on shopping at the neighborhood grocery as membership dwindled.^{19 20}

⁷ "Today's prophets are but pale imitators," *Seattle Times*, May 6, 1970, p. A9.

⁸ "Members remain faithful to founder," *Seattle Times*, May 15, 1978, p. A4.

⁹ "Members remain faithful to founder," *Seattle Times*, May 15, 1978, p. A4.

¹⁰ "A man of quiet faith," *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, March 22, 1981, *Seattle Post Intelligencer/Northwest*, pp. 4-7.

¹¹ "Church sues for assets: Deceased member, on videotape, says defendant handled funds," *Seattle Times*, December 18, 1980, p. C1.

¹² Liu, Dennis. 1993. "Holy Ballard: A Christian Sect....," *Seattle Weekly* (July 7), pp. 16-25.

¹³ Liu, "Holy Ballard: A Christian Sect....," p. 25.

¹⁴ Members of the church who were married before joining were required to live as brothers and sisters and sleep apart. Allegations of sexual contact with Salwt were made by several female members in the years after his death. For more information on this topic see: Liu, "Holy Ballard: A Christian Sect....," pp. 16-25, and "A man of quiet faith," pp. 4-7.

¹⁵ "A dwindling church may get windfall," *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, December 24, 1987, p. A1.

¹⁶ "A dwindling church may get windfall," *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, December 24, 1987, p. A1.

¹⁷ Liu, "Holy Ballard: A Christian Sect....," pp. 16-25.

¹⁸ Liu, "Holy Ballard: A Christian Sect....," pp. 16-25.

¹⁹ "A dwindling church may get windfall," p. A1.

The church was out of the press until the mid-1970s when a conflict with a former business manager for the church, George L. Rogers, eventually resulted in a \$2 million dollar settlement in favor of the church. The church's four remaining members eventually received control of a 65-foot yacht, the Eddy Mansion at 1117 Boylston Avenue E, and a partial ownership of the Monarch Ski Area in southwest Colorado as a result of the Rogers settlement.²¹ Rogers eventually was sentenced to concurrent 10 and 25-year terms for securities fraud, mail fraud, and several tax counts for other crimes.²²

The church lost its tax-exempt status for four parcels of land, believed to be this site, in April 1973, because the city of Seattle saw no evidence they were continuing to conduct church services there.²³

4.4 Site and Building Occupancy History

The subject buildings, known as the Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel, served as a church building and housing for the members of the church. The church first appears as a listing in the Seattle Polk directory of 1923. However, Salwt had been living at the 7028 9th Avenue NW address since 1920, and at four other addresses within a block of the eventual church location since 1912.²⁴ Construction of the church building and the communal living area began in 1917.^{25 26}

The church members continued to live and worship on the subject property until the deaths of members and a lack of new converts and offspring precipitated the impending sale of the property to the City of Seattle.

4.5 Building Architect

There is no known building architect for the original buildings. Ron Reed, of Reedesign was involved in a replacement garage in 1986, and a new foundation and interior remodel of the residence in 1992.

4.6 Building Contractor

The building contractor is unknown; much of the work in the early years of the church was probably done by members.

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²⁰ Allegations of sexual contact with Salwt were made by several female members in the years after his death, and one, Eva Falk Firpo, the church's high priestess and handmaiden of the lord, served as Salwt's secretary and also indicated she did other things she said "which you probably wouldn't want me to mention." Falk eventually left Salwt because of his relations with other women, and found the focus of the press on her again for posing nude in a park, and winning a swimsuit competition. Irene Jacobsen and her husband joined the church and lived communally while Irene took Falk's place in Salwt's bed.

²¹ "Ballard sect tries to recover funds from mansion, yacht sale," *Seattle Times*, July 26, 1981, p. C1.

²² "Former Seattleite sentenced in massive tax fraud case," *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, October 25, 1990, p. B7.

²³ "Last of sect clings to its land," *Seattle Times*, April 30, 1978, p. A14.

²⁴ R.L. Polk & Co., *Polk's Seattle City Directory*, annuals 1910-1996.

²⁵ "A dwindling church may get windfall," *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, December 24, 1987, p. A1.

²⁶ Liu, "Holy Ballard: A Christian Sect....," pp. 16-25.

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APPENDIX 1

FIGURES

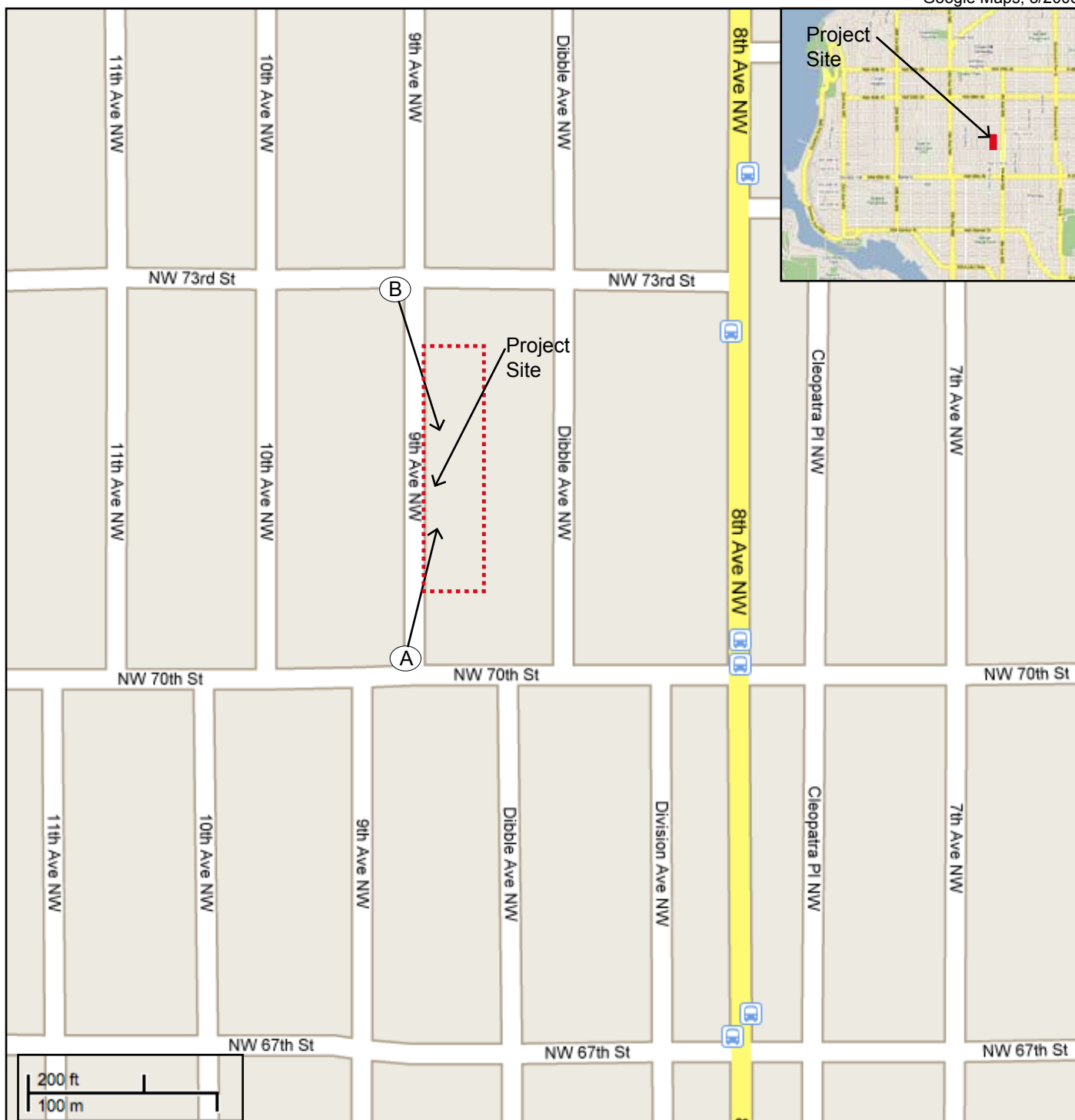


Figure 1 • Location

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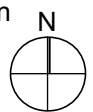
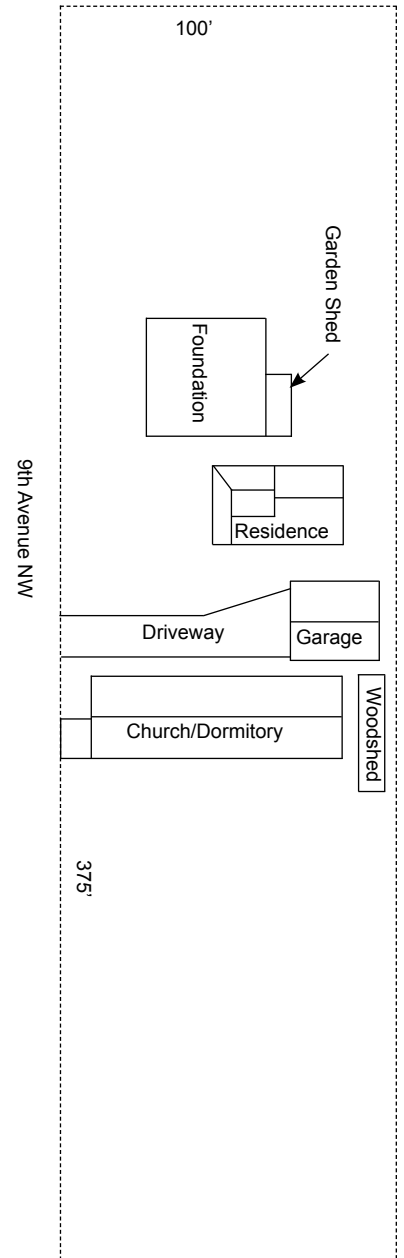
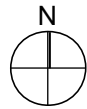
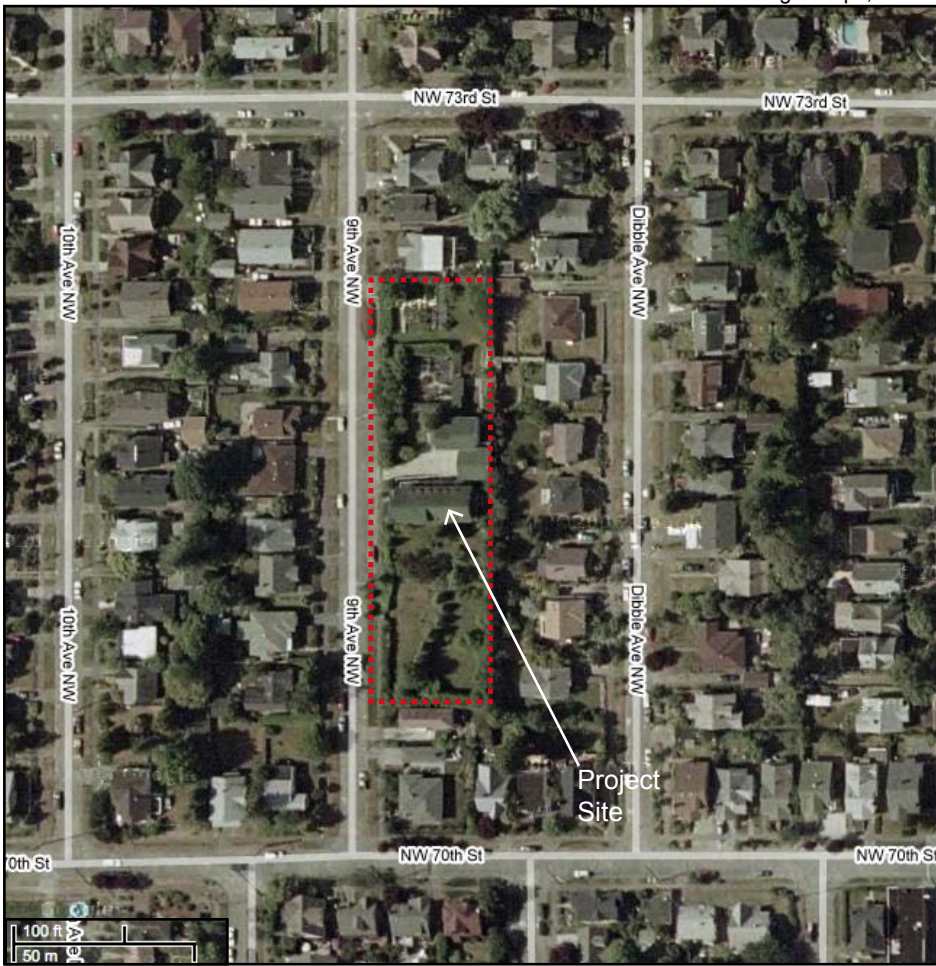




Figure 4 • View A • Viewing to the north from NW 70th Street and 9th Avenue NW



Figure 5 • View B • Viewing to the south from NW 73rd Street and 9th Avenue NW



Figure 6 • Viewing to the north from the southwest corner of the subject property



Figure 7 • Viewing to the north from the driveway



Figure 8 • West façade, church building



Figure 9 • Partial south façade, church building



Figure 10 • Partial south façade, eastern end, church building



Figure 11 • Partial north façade, church building



Figure 12 • Partial north façade, church building



Figure 13 • Partial north facade, church building, east end



Figure 14 • North facade, window detail



Figure 15 • Garage, west facade



Figure 16 • Partial west and south facades, residence



Figure 17 • Partial east facade, residence



Figure 18 • Partial north facades, residence and garage beyond. East facade, garden shed



Figure 19 • Partial north and west facades, residence



Figure 20 • Wood shed, north and partial west facades



Figure 21 • Garden shed, east facade



Figure 22 • Church building, main floor, kitchen



Figure 23 • Church building, main floor, gathering room



Figure 24 • Church building, main floor, hall

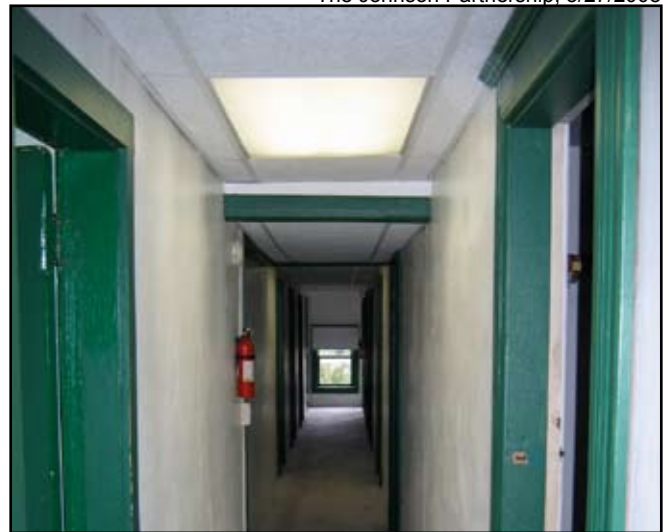


Figure 25 • Church building, upper floor, hall



Figure 26 • Church building, upper floor, typical bedroom



Figure 27 • Church building, basement sanctuary, entrance vestibule



Figure 28 • Church building, basement sanctuary, viewing east



Figure 29 • Church building, basement sanctuary, viewing west



Figure 30 • Residence, living room



Figure 31 • Residence, kitchen



Figure 32 • Residence, upper floor

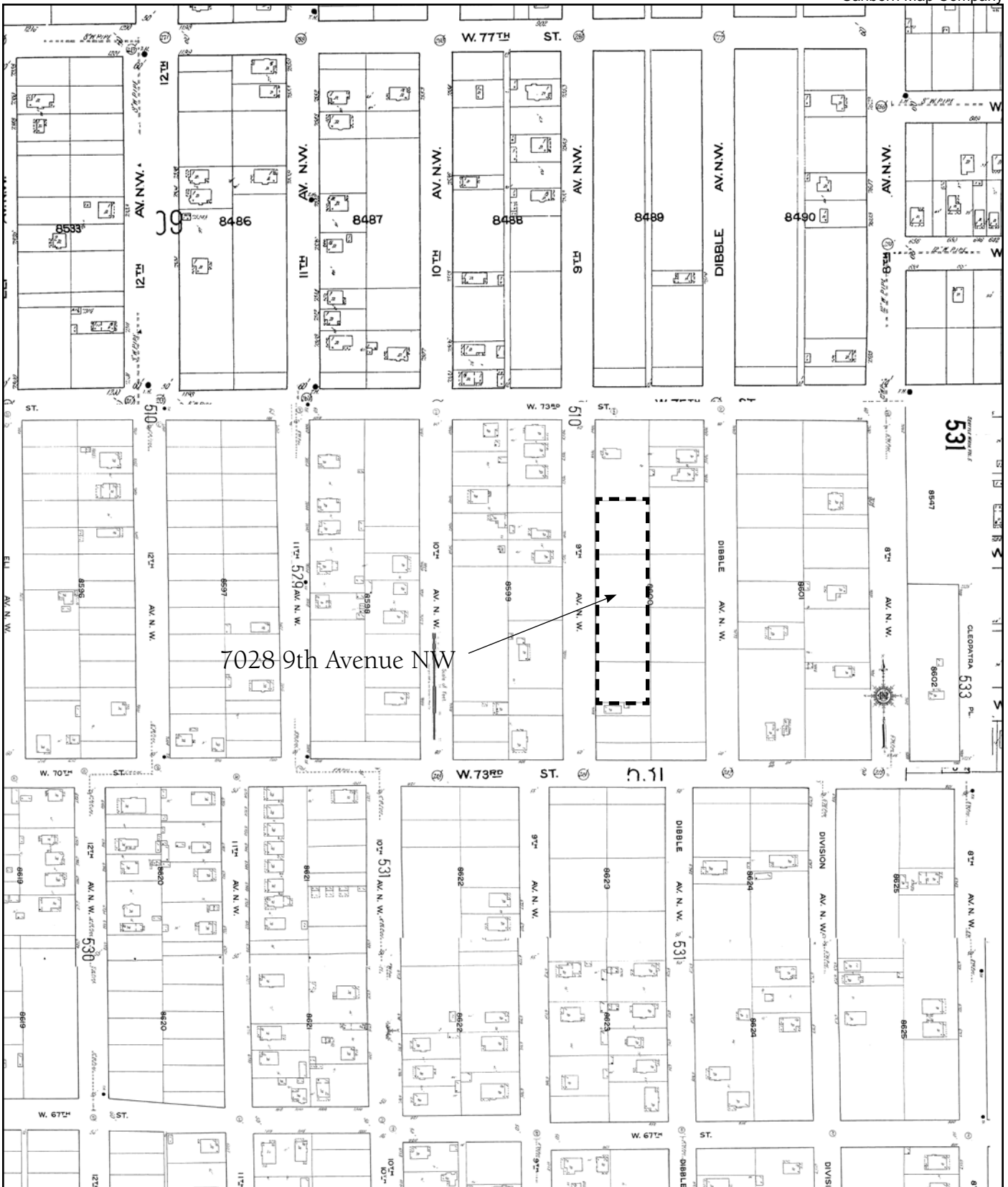


Figure 33 • Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1917, Vol. 5, sheets 509, 510, 529 - 532

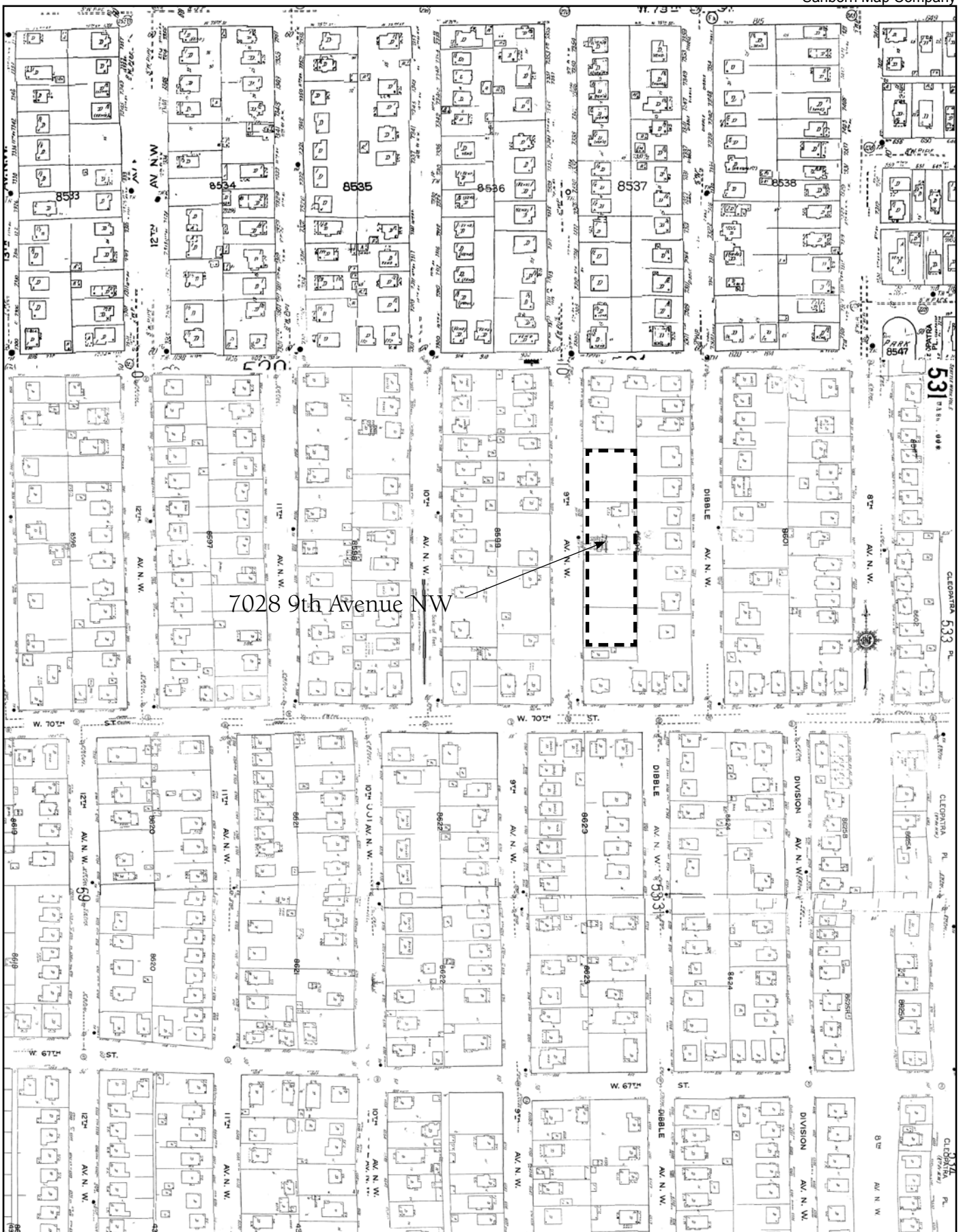


Figure 34 • Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1950, vol. 5 sheets 509, 510, 529 - 532

Seventh Elect Church in Spiritual Israel Historic and Cultural Resources Report

April 2008



Figure 35 • West and South façades, church building, 1937



Figure 36 • West and South façades, residence, 1937

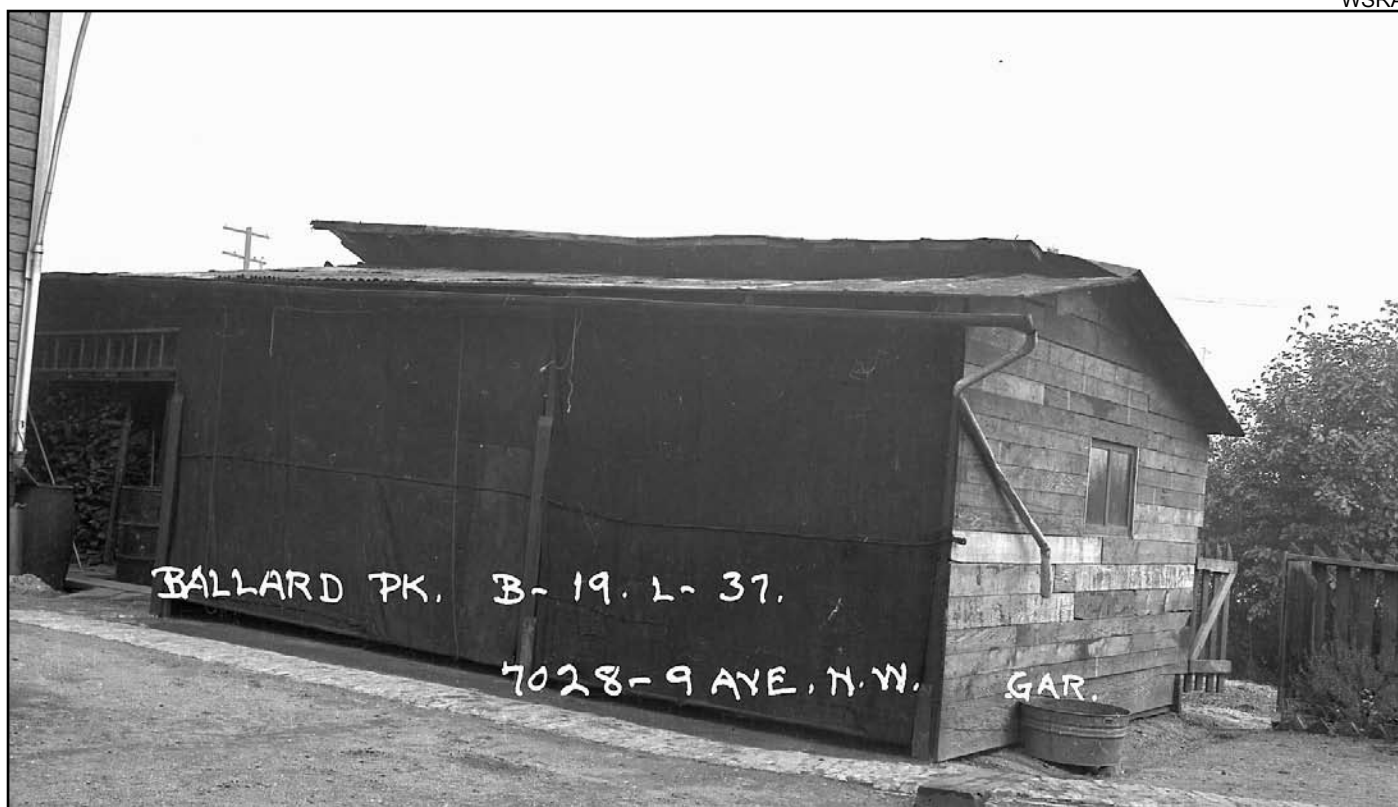


Figure 37 • West and south façades, garage, 1937

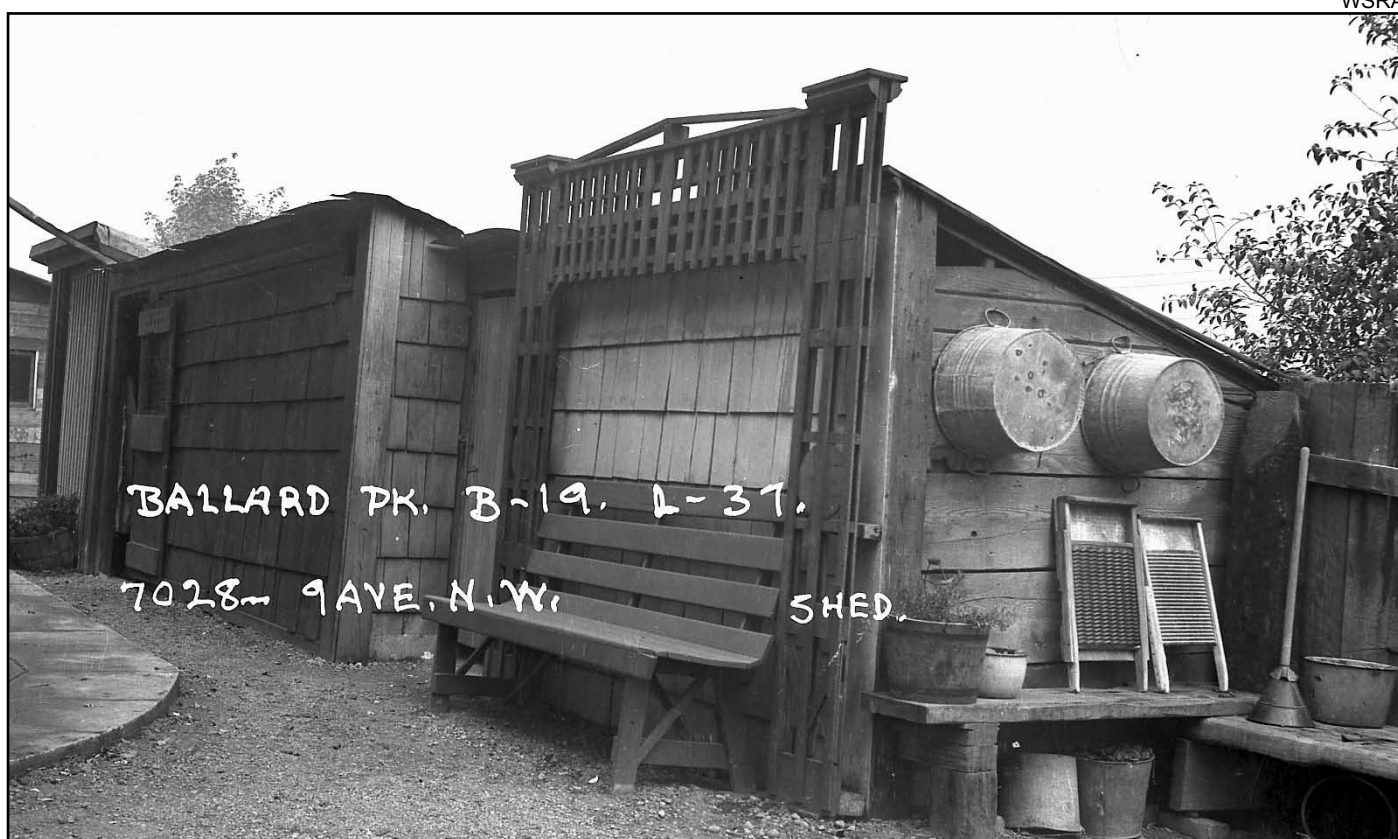


Figure 38 • West and south façades, woodshed, 1937